

Monthly Reports provide details about county operations

By Hector Flores

Each month county departments submit a report with details about projects, programs and services provided to our residents and visitors. Everyone can view these reports by visiting the county's website. The easiest way to find them is to do a search for Monthly Reports in the How May We Help You field on the website homepage.

I'd like to share some interesting nuggets from the most recent report.

The Whiskey Joe's restaurant on the site of the former Harbor Inn in Charlotte Harbor is now in the permitting phase, another great step forward in the growth of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area. Also in permitting is Palladium Investment Company's 600-unit multi-family apartment project that will include affordable housing, a key goal in the County Commission's strategic plan.

The Community Services report showed attendance at Centennial Park recreation center reached 3,960 people in October, the most-used recreation center in the county. We celebrated its opening with a ribbon-cutting on Jan. 9, 2020. That was followed by the opening of the pool in October 2020. Centennial Park is located at 1120 Centennial Boulevard in Port Charlotte.

The Economic Development Office reported the median price for single-family homes in Charlotte County was \$364,900 in September 2023, down slightly from August, according to Florida Realtors. By contrast, the median price in October 2020 was \$259,900.

The Human Resources Department employee headcount for October was 1,360 and the average years of service was slightly more than eight years. The Veterans Services Division of the Human Services Department fielded 1,500 calls from veterans seeking assistance getting benefits or requesting information.

Charlotte County Fire & EMS responded to 3,903 calls for emergency medical service. The Mosquito and Aquatic Weeds Division of the Public Works Department sprayed 191,508 acres with adulticide and 418 acres with larvicide.

The Tourism Department reported that Tourist Development Tax revenue reached \$434,940 in September 2023, up 28.6% over September 2022. The Utilities Department added 184 sewer connections in October to hit 46,392 total connections. It added 134 water connections, reaching 69,257 total connections.

These are just a few examples of the the details available in the Monthly Reports. I find it very helpful to gauge how successful we are in delivering exceptional service to our community.

Cultural Center

We have reopened an online survey about the Cultural Center concept and property. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/CulturalCenterInput and complete the survey to provide your input. All submissions are anonymous. The survey will close at 5 p.m., Dec. 15.

A public input meeting is scheduled for 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 6 in Room B106 of the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.

Readers may reach County Administrator's Hector Flores at Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.